From Spark to Space

HAMATEURCHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - - since 1917

Volume 10 No. 1 - Jan., '02

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From The President's Desk

Dave DeFebo - WB9BWP

Welcome to 2002. This month marks 85 years since the club was founded by 4 like minded guys. For a long time we said we were the oldest continuously operating radio club. For a long time we believed that. In this age of information, it is easy to investigate facts. It turns out we are not the oldest (we haven't been saying that for a few years now). There are 2 or 3 clubs who are older (and have operated continuously). If you are a member, you should have received a club history (if you have Internet access a copy is on our web page). In there you can read about some of the highlights of our history and amateur radio in general. Happy birthday to us.

In March we plan to sponsor a special operating event to mark the occasion. Tom - KB9RLB is running the show on that one. He needs volunteers to operate. The catch is you operate from YOUR HOME. You do not have to go anywhere, you do not even have to get dressed. Just stroll over to your radios and make some contacts using the call W9RH along with your call (like "This is W9RH with WB9BWP operating" following your own license privileges). This might also be a good opportunity for those with well equipped stations to have some of those less fortunate over to their house to help operate. Sounds like fun to me.

We had a Christmas party. Those who were there seemed to have a good time. If you were not there, why not? Do you care about Christmas parties? If you do, we need to start planning soon. What, we just had the party. If we need a restaurant or hall for a 2002 party, that needs to be booked soon. What do you want to see in a Christmas party? Speak up now.

At the Christmas party we drew the winner of the 10 meter raffle. The raffle made

Continued on pg 2

Milwaukee Area Nets

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY
Daily	6-8 AM	14.290	Wisconsin/Florida (SSB)
Daily	6:30 PM	3.645	WI Slow Speed CW Traffic
Mon-Fri	8:30 AM	3.965	After Breakfast Club (SSB)
Mon.	**8:00 PM**	**3.994**	**Tech Net NEW**
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.445	Emergency Net
Mon.	9:00 PM	146.670	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Net
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.160	6 Mtr. 2nd Shifter's Net
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)
Tue.	8:00 PM	7.035	A.F.A.R. (CW)
Wed.	8:00 PM	28.365	10/10 Internat. (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
Wed.	8:00 PM	147.270+	Weather & Swap net.

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY
Thu	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Interest Net
Thu.	9:00 PM	146.91 -	Computer Net
Fri	**8:30 PM**	**28.490**	**MRAC W9RH 10 meter Net (SSB)**
Fri.	**9:00 PM**	**147.045+**	**W9RH 2 mtr. FM Net after 10 mtr. Net**
Sat	9:00 PM	146.910-	Saturday Night Fun Net
Sun.	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Sun.	10:00 AM	443.800+	FM-38 link to 146.88 Baraboo SWAP Net
Sun.	8:00 PM	28.365	10/10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
Sun.	8:00 PM	146.91-	Information Net
Sun.	9:00 PM	146.91-	Swap Net

Two meter (FM) Frequencies are 600 KHz offset repeaters. FM 38 is + 5 MHz. Ten meter (SSB) frequencies are upper sideband (USB).

Prez Cont. from pg. 1

the club $188. Thanks to everyone who bought tickets, and to Mark Tellier and Jerry Wahlen who sold the tickets. Also a big thank you to Bill Fullhart - W9WCF and Mike McKenna - KB9MMI who donated the radio and antenna and made the raffle possible. Who was the lucky winner? Ted Stiller - WA9RDI got himself an almost new Radio Shack 10M radio and a Par omnidirectional antenna. Congratulations Ted.

Dues are due this month. Everyone will receive a membership card when they pay up. That way you will know if you paid. Also, **EVERYONE MUST** fill out the renewal form. No form, we treat your dues as a contribution. Why are we being so nasty on this? Many times, especially at club meeting, people throw some cash at the Treasurer assuming he knows what it is for and who it came from. Well many times he gets home and finds extra cash and has no idea what it is for. The form helps us keep track of what is happening. It also helps us keep member info up to date so we can publish a roster every year. It also gets us email addresses so we can save money on printing and mailing the newsletter. So, PLEASE fill out the form. It's not that hard.

We are starting an Extra Class license class in a couple of weeks. This seems to be very popular and may actually fill up (a limit of 12-15 people has been set). If it is not too late by the time you read this, fill out a registration form and get it into the Treasurer (with some money) as soon as possible. First come, first served. And thanks to Patrick Moretti and Mark Tellier for teaching the class (anyone else want to help?). Remember, the Extra test questions will change come July 1 of this year.

In preparation for keeping the club an ongoing, viable entity, we are trying to set up self-sustaining committees to take care of particular club functions. The VEC seems well in hand. The newsletter is not too bad (but always needs articles). Education/license classes is growing (but still needs a couple of more people). The repeater maintenance, controllers, and futures seem covered. Now we need 2 or 3 people who would like to make up the Field Day/Contest Committee. Field Day happens in June (22nd & 23rd). We have 5 meetings before then. We need a chairman and assistant minimum to get things organized. The main tasks are food, operators, coordinating everyone and equipment, and logging and submitting the results. The club owns the basics for equipment and antennas, but that is just a start. Are you interested? Speak up (or do I have to appoint?). By the way, looking beyond Field Day, maybe this group could coordinate club entries for other major contests. That just involves coordinating individuals who would normally operate in those contests anyway. Come on people, lets pass the load around!

Starting at the January board meeting we will have an ongoing discussion at board meetings for a few months on the future of the club repeater. Do you have any thoughts? Should we leave it alone? Should we look for a better site? Should we spend lots of money and make a big machine? Should we sell it? What? Please let us know. This is also a cue to the future hardware committee too.

John Kraak - KF9XL and Sherm Swanson - KB9Q have volunteered to be a nominating committee for this year's elections. All officers (Pres, VP, Secretary and Treasurer) and 2 directors are up for election. Not everyone is running for re-election. Are you interested? Talk to John or Sherm (or maybe hint they should run themselves). Nominations happen at the April meeting and elections are in May (Auction night too).

David B. DeFebo

Dave DeFebo
WB9BWP
Our President

Some days you are the bug, some days you are the windshield.

Board Meeting 11/26/2001

Previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written.

Treasurers report — $4193.06 in total liquid assets. The board asked that the treasurer correct the date on his handout and also mention the interest that the club CD is earning and enter the figure into the record.

Special thanks were given to Kate - KA9MWT for the use of her QTH.

Future board meetings already set up — April @WB9BWP and May @WB9LNU and June @ a restaurant so the new board members can meet with the old.

The January club meeting will have a talk by Dave - WB9BWP on vertical antennas, grounding and measuring etc.

The club has sold about $ 90.00 so far on the 10 meter radio raffle. Jerry Wahlen has sold some tickets at the Miller Valley club.

VEC - Tom - KF9PU nothing new to report except the club sponsored VEC group will test at the West Allis Club swap fest in January.

Classes - Patrick Moretti and Mark Tellier want about 8 weeks to do the class for EXTRA. Will start maybe in Feb.

Dick - WB9PTC is still trying to help the people that want to learn CW. Still no help from the people in the club who claim they use CW all the time.

Tom - KB9RLB will organize the Club's 85th birthday operating event using the W9RH call. It will be on March 15 and 16. Starts at 6 PM the 15th. Will go 24 hours on all bands within the operators license class. Announcements will be in the magazines. Will have QSL cards if we get enough contacts. Most QSL's via Email on the Internet to save money or via SASE. Call Tom if you wish to be part of the fun!!

PR - Club did the 91 fest and will be at West Allis Hamfest. Dave has new member package together.

Special notice to all members: Your dues are due NOW!!!

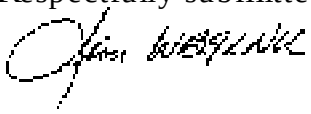
Repeater news - The repeater is running 50 watts on one antenna. Some trouble with amp. Next year we will decide if the club should keep the repeater since very few use it.

Christmas party - 29 have signed up so far. WB9LNU has offered to donate 6 plants for table decorations again this year. Bill Kidd will be there. The 10 meter radio raffle will take place.

In January we will have to start with a nominating committee to line up new officers and directors for the election in May. Many positions will have to be filled this time.

Club budget - Preliminary estimates show that we are ahead by $ 250.00 this year and no longer in deficit spending. Club Inventory - WB9LNU has supplied the board with a complete inventory of all club owned property and the location of all the equipment.

Respectfully submitted,



Jim - WB9LNU
Secretary

Extra Class License Class

EXTRA

Are you interested in upgrading your radio License to Extra Class?

The question pool for the Extra Class will change in July.

The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, Inc. is sponsoring a class to take care of this dilemma.

We (MRAC) are starting a class on Saturday - February 2 to be held every Saturday through March 30, 2002 (skipping Feb. 9) at 12:30 PM 'till 2:30 PM. (There will be testing at Superfest, April 6, 2002.)

The Classes will be at Amateur Electronic Supply (AES) at 5710 W. Good Hope Rd., Milwaukee, WI

The lesson materials will be Extra Class Study Guide" by Gordon West — $14.95 (available at AES) – (be sure to mention that you're taking the class).

It is advised that if you take the class that you pickup a copy and STUDY it before each class.

For classes, MRAC members pay $5.00 non-members pay $20.00. Advance registration requested (Jan. 26) (non-member fee is $25.00 after Jan. 26.)

Study hard and YOU could be an Extra before summer.

(262) 797-MRAC

w9rh@arrl.net

http://www.qsl.net/mrac

MRAC Club Meeting 10/25/'01

Previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written.

Treasurers report - $ 4193.06 total liquid assets plus the CD and VEC fund. Also, we eliminated the clubs money market acct. and put the money into the regular checking acct.

Vern - W9RYA questioned why we eliminated the money market acct. Dave, our president explained that if we wanted to use the money in the money market acct., it would cost the club $22.00 because of the minimum amount required to have the acct. leaving us with two choices, either add more money to the money market acct. or eliminate it. The board decided to eliminate it. It is the boards responsibility to handle to money matter on behalf of the members of the club!

The mic was passed for all to I.D.

Dave - WB9BWP reports that we are almost $500.00 in the black with our new budget for (the year) 2001. We should have the final budget figures by the January meeting.

Tom - KB9RLB will be the chairman of the 85th birthday special operating event for the club. The event will start at 6:00 PM March 15th and go for 24 hours. All bands will be used along with the W9RH call. Operators will operate from their homes within their class of license but use the club's call letters. Tom has a sign up sheet prepared. He will have more info at the January and February meetings.

Dave says the FCC is not responding to mail due to 9/11. If you need to renew your license or something, do it electronically.

The club will be at the West Allis swap fest and at AES Superfest.

In January we will be looking for members to be in a nominating committee to find new officers and directors for the May elections. All the officers and 2 directors will need to be elected.

If you don't like the way the club is being run, now is your chance! Dave sent a sign up form around during the meeting to sign up for the various committees. Example: Field Day, education board, election committee, repeater, kitchen crew.

The club's new EXTRA class license class will start maybe in February. It will run for 8 weeks. Watch the Chatter for details.

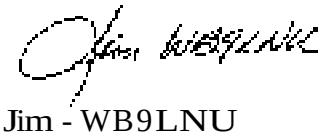
Repeater - Mark - AB9CD the club repeater amp has a harmonic on 146.31. The amp is off until the problem is found.

Dick - WB9PTC, needs help with the weekly CW class he does over the air. Where are all those guys that don't want the FCC to eliminate CW from testing? We need more CW teachers.

Dave auctioned off more equipment at the meeting and generated another $30.00 and as usual, he was very entertaining. Special thanks to all the members who have been so generous this year with their donations.

Business meeting adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully submitted,



Jim - WB9LNU
Secretary

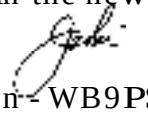
Christmas Party follow-up

On December 2, the MRAC held our annual Christmas party at the Machine Shed in Pewaukee. Thirty eight people attended — twelve XYL's and two YL's joined the festivities.

As with any club event it takes people to make things happen. I want to acknowledge the many volunteers who came forward to help make our year end party enjoyable. Vern Teske - W9RYA, who takes the time to find restaurant locations in different parts of the city each year.

Ken Eggert - W9MOT, who donated the cakes for desert and was the official photographer. Jim Tromblay - WB9LNU, who donated all the poinsettia flower center pieces. Father Bill Kidd - NE9W, who took care of the spiritual department. Mark Tellier - AB9CD diligently sold $188.00 in raffle tickets. A very special thanks to the two Hams that donated their equipment to make the raffle happen. Bill Fullhart - W9WC, who donated the 10 meter radio and Mike McKenna - KB9MMI, who donated the 10 meter antenna.

Ted Stiller - WA9RDI was the grand prize winner of the raffle. Congratulations, Ted. Great way to end the year. Maybe next year we will be the lucky ones. All the best in the new year!



John - WB9PSE.

Recent VE Exam Report

MRAC VEC held VE testing on Nov 24, 2001. While there were only 6 candidates, all six either qualified for their first license or upgraded. Those VE's who helped out at the session included the following:

Doug Awe - N9VA
Mark Bye - KB9LDX
Tom Czaja - KG9EE
Bob Immekus - W9CYI
Kate Kedney - KA9MWT
John Kraak - KF9XL
Joe Mettry - AA9DO
Patrick Moretti - W9UQ
Sherm Swanson - KB9Q
Mark Tellier - AB9CD
Jerry Thompson - W9SFH

73,
John KF9XL

The MRAC VEC held VE testing on Jan 5, 2002 at Waukesha in conjunction with the West Allis Radio Amateur Club Swapfest. There were 20 candidates, and 12 were successful in either upgrading or in qualifying for their first license. 26 elements were given, and 22 were passed. The VE's who participated in the session included the following:

Doug Awe - N9VA
Mark Bye - KB9LDX
Tom Czaja - KG9EE
Tom Fuszard - KF9PU
John Kraak - KF9XL
Joe Mettry - AA9DO
Norm McNew - KB9QL
Dick McNew - WB9PTC
Patrick Moretti - W9UQ
Sherm Swanson - KB9Q
Mark Tellier - AB9CD
Jerry Thompson - W9SFH

73,

John (KF9XL)

John - KF9XL

If at first you don't succeed,
skydiving is not for you.

MRAC VEC A Exam Schedule

Sat. . Jan. 26, 2002.... 9:30 AM... AES
Sat. . Feb. 23, 2002 ... 9:30 AM... AES
Sat. . Apr. 6, 2002 ..... 9 AM.....AES
(AES Superfest)
Sat. . Apr. 27, 2002 ... 9:30 AM... AES
Sat. . May 25, 2002 ... 9:30 AM... AES
Sat. . Jul. 27, 2002 .... 9:30 AM... AES

NøOKS Freeware

QSL Info Lookup Program & Data

A QSL information lookup program and data file is available at www.nøoks.com. The program will lookup the name and address for any Canadian or US call. You may download the program and data and see how you like it. If you continue to use the program and data, then a $5.00 contribution would be nice. Periodic updates to the data and updates to the lookup program and additional programs are included in the $5.00 contribution.
Mark W. Kachel,
Nøoks@nøoks.com.

Nominations Now In Order

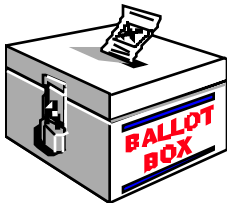
The MRAC nominating committee is searching for candidates to help lead the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club as it enters its 86th year. In May, MRAC members will elect a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and two directors. Since several members of our current board are not standing for re-election, this is an opportunity for you, the members, to step forward and announce your willingness to serve.

If you are interested in running for office or would like to recommend a fellow amateur, please contact a member of the nominating committee. Members include:

Jack Hughes - W9ULA
(414) 289-0997
Sherm Swanson - KB9Q
(262) 662-3824
John Kraak - KF9XL
(262) 786-2062

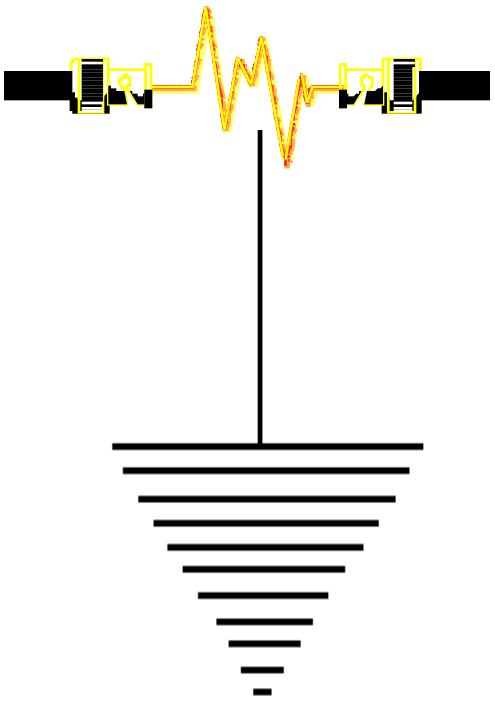
Thank you, Pancho.

73, John KF9XL



Nominations in April.
Election of officers and two Board members **in May** along with our Club Auction.

Are You Well Grounded?
Buy Some Ground Strap!



The club has purchased a bulk quantity of 1" ground strap for use on the repeater. The unused amount is being made available to club members for 99¢ per foot, tax included. This will save you about 5% over AES pricing and it helps the club defray the cost of running the repeater. Contact Matt Planning at (414)475-6404 or Email at engine-ear@voyager.net or Mark Tellier at (414)357-6522 or Email at ab9cd@arrl.net to request a specific length. All orders will be made available at the next meeting unless by other mutual agreement. [We don't expect anyone to become a delivery service for club members!] We plan to bring the ground strap to the January swapfest in Waukesha and the January meeting for walk up orders. First come, first served. Limited quantity available.

Please call or email with any questions.

73,
Mark - AB9CD

Ed Wille Estate Sale

The following items are for sale by the YL of Ed Wille, W9PWG. If you are interested in any of these items, please call Sue Wille @ 414-461-5961 and she will arrange for you to pick it up from her QTH. Bring your check or cash along!

All equipment has not been used since Ed passed away three years ago. Some is in like new condition and most all are complete with manual.

Hal DS-3000 KSR video RTTY terminal complete with 9" monitor. $50.00.

Chrome Bencher electronic keyer paddle $ 25.00.

40' tower similar to Rohn 25, exact brand unknown. $40.00

Model FQ10S audio equalizer $10.00

Shall cross Decade voltage divider (test equip.) $2.00

Weston Electric volt meters and amp meters $10.00 for all WE meters.

Hunter Bandit 2000A Linear amplifier (condition unknown, uses 4- 572 tubes condition of power supply also unknown) $ 400.00

Kenwood TS-520 transceiver with hand mic. (operates from 110 VAC) condition unknown. Has some tubes and some solid state. Also has digital read-out add-on that sits on top. $ 250.00

Western Union 1946 Model 15 RTTY machine. Was working when Ed died. $ 20.00

Western Union Model 14 tape perforator transmitter. Condition unknown $ 10.00.

Western Union Model 12 tape reader/transmitter $ 10.00

MFJ Model 498 CW key board (complete and in new condition) $ 50.00

Heathkit Cantenna 50 ohm (can handle a kilowatt for short duration and oil cooled) $ 10.00.

MARS Co. SWR bridge model unknown $5.00

MFJ 723 audio CW notch filter (install between rig and speaker) new condition $10.00

Kenwood Model PC-1A phone patch $5.00

Tektronics 2225 dual trace oscilloscope (50 MHZ) Like new condition with manual and probe and built in cover and handle $400.00

Simpson Model 303 volt meter (VOM) $25.00

Sencore Model TF151 transistor and FET tester with book $20.00

B&K Model 161 transistor tester $10.00

Japanese Vibroplex CW key approx. 50 years old. $ 100.00

Vanco SWR Bridge Model SWR-3 $ 5.00

Eico resistance/capacitance bridge Model 950B $10.00

HP 334A rack mount type distortion analyzer (test equip.) $30.00

HP Model 400E high accuracy AC volt meter (test equip.) $30.00

Sylvania VTVM (collector test equip.) Type 134 $10.00

Simpson AC VTVM Model 715 $5.00

Eico audio signal tracer/amp. (test equip.) Model 145 $5.00

Two General Radio precision capacitors Model 1422 $20.00 each

MRAC 85th Anniversary Special Event

The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club was founded in January 1917 and will be 85 years old this January, 2002. To celebrate its birthday the MRAC will put the W9RH call on the air as a special event station. This will happen on March 16, 2002 from 0000UTC to 2400UTC, that is 6:00pm on March 15th to 6:00pm on March 16th.

How can you as members help? Well, we will need as many operators as we can get to help make this a successful event. Those who wish to operate will do so from their own location using their own equipment and using the call of W9RH/your call. You must operate within the limits of your license. That is if you are a general class you can only work in the general class bands, technician in the technician bands only. If you can only work the bands for an hour or so at a particular time that will be fine because we need operators for the full 24 hours. The bands that the W9RH call will be on are all the HF and VHF so that everyone, no matter what license classes, can operate. Some frequencies that will be used are 28.470, 14.270, 7.260 and 144.220, modes of operation will be CW and SSB. If you don't have a station at home try to get together with other club member and operate from their location. It's always nice to have two at a station, one for talking the other for logging.

You say you are unable to operate on the air? Well how about designing a certificate or qsl card? A certificate will be sent to all those who contact W9RH providing they include a 9x12 SASE and a QSL card to any DX station that might happen to ask for one. A printable certificate will be sent to those who send QSL information to W9RH @arrl.net via e-mail.

If you can help in any way contact me Tom Schulte - KB9RLB, at our next club meeting, via e-mail at KB9RLB@arrl.net or at 414-529-2512 after 4:00pm. Let's make this a success.

73,

Tom KB9RLB

PMX-100 Desk Mic Revisited

A while back, a year and a half ago I did a review on the Premier Communications PMC-100 desk microphone. In the review I stated that I would report back after some use, that time has now come.

In short this is what I originally started.

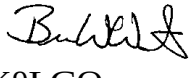
Gripes – I have a few. There is no schematic supplied with the PMC-100. The PMC-100 will key the transceiver when the power switch is pressed. Therefore, the transceiver needs to be powered up after the PMC-100 to prevent an accidental key-up and powered down before the PMC-100 again to prevent an accidental keying. The PTT and LOCK switches feel shoddy, not terribly robust. The switches are likely the first to fail and will require replacement within a year or two. Bottom line, it is not a well-built unit. It certainly does not have decades of service built into it. Is it worth the purchase price? I guess so since I did not return the second unit. Would I buy another? No.

About two years later....

My initial dislike can be attributed to the fact that the first unit I purchased was defective. The second unit has performed flawlessly. Let me state I am well pleased with the PMC-100 desk microphone. I have had no problems with the unit and have actually grown to like it. This is especially true during net operations. I have only used the PMC-100 on two Kenwood radios, the TM-733 and TM-V7. The optional cable for the Yaesu FT-8100 radio is NOT compatible with the PMC-100 or was the last time I checked. The lack of a schematic adds to the difficulty in building an interface cable for the Yaesu FT-8100. The the PMC-100 has not been used with the FT-8100. No attempt was made to use the microphone with any Icom radio.

The switches have held up better than expected. My estimate that they would require replacement in a short period, one to two years seems grossly in error. The accidental key-ups appear to be radio specific, it does not occur on the TM-V7 whatsoever. However, the TM733 is a different story. Occasionally when powering up the PMC-100 and very consistently when powering down the accidental keying still occurs. To alleviate the problem I quit turning the power off on the microphone via the microphone power switch. Since the radio supplies power to the microphone, I rely primarily on the power switch for the radio.

Once again, the bottom line, would I buy another? Yes, I would. After almost 2 years of use I have changed my mind, and would buy another.



K9LCQ

Guatemala and Amateur Radio in the 1960's

How I got my first license
Jim - WB9LNU

I was sixteen and had just found out from my father, a Major in the Air Force and an experienced pilot and maintenance officer, that our family was being transferred to Guatemala for 2 1/2 years. His mission was to train the Guatemalan Air Force how to properly maintain the aircraft that were given to them by the United States through a foreign aid program developed during President John Kennedy's administration.

My interest in radio was just beginning. I had just received a Knight Kit R-100A receiver kit for my birthday and started studying for my Novice license. The idea of going to a foreign country alone was exciting, not to mention the fact that everyone would want to talk to you.

We arrived in Guatemala in June of 1963. From the moment we stepped off the airplane I was greeted with amazing and exciting surprises. Guatemala City is on a plateau at 5,000 feet above sea level and 800 miles north of the equator. The average temperature year around is about 72°. Fahrenheit. The first thing you notice when you get off the plane is three volcanoes, one semi-active and two that have been extinct for over 300 years. The airport terminal was made of adobe and had only shutters on its windows, no glass. The commercial planes shared the same runway with the Guatemalan Air Force.

Once in the terminal and finally at the hotel, it became painfully obvious that I had a severe language barrier. But, to my delight, I discovered that a block from the hotel was a hamburger joint run by an American and that all the kids spoke English.

Then comes the ultimate shock for a teenager, the school year in Guatemala runs from January through October and to get in step with this system, I will lose my summer vacation and have to start immediately and retake a half year of the 10th grade again. Super bummer!!!!

Guatemala has a Ham Radio club very similar to MRAC. They had a QSL bureau, 16 mm movies every other Wednesday night for 25 cents, a Club station, a Club newsletter every month and of course, plenty of old Grandpas to help a young guy like me out. But no school for beginners. You were on your own to learn the theory. No code required. The next catch was that you had to be 18 to hold a license, or your father must be licensed and his children could become second operators to him, using his call.

Now what??? Dad wasn't interested in radio. They told me that if I had a State side call, I could apply for a reciprocal license at any age. Makes sense???? I could apply for a conditional license from the States and take my test from the Air Force MARS operator.

All of this of course would take time. So, I decided to try something very bold for a young kid. I went to the Guatemalan FCC and asked to talk to the man in charge.

Great, he speaks English, and I am the first young man to ever try such thing, but he is willing to try something new at least once. He will give me a verbal test in English right in my Ham shack with an actual on the air test and he will do it today. Not having my own car, he even drove me home.

The test!!! We first looked over my station, he was pleased to see that I built my own equipment, even though they were kits. Then we checked the antennas. All the while, he was asking questions, such as "How did I determine how long to make the dipole and what type of feed line was best?". The test went on for about an hour. Any time I made a mistake or wasn't sure, he would put hand on my shoulder and say, "No son, that's not right.," and would explain the correct answer. Later he would check to see if I remembered the correct answer. We made an actual on the air QSO using his call. He wanted to make sure that I could tune the transmitter properly and had proper operating abilities. I passed!!!!

What about my age? I'm still too young by law to have a license. The license!!! We drove back to the Guatemalan FCC office. I was asked to wait while my situation was discussed. The license will be issued to my father even though he did not take the test and will be good until I turn 18. I can operate under the second operator rule until then. I must stay on 80 and 40 meters only until I make 100 contacts so the local monitoring station can monitor my operating practices and after successful completion of 100 contacts I can use all the bands with a maximum power of 150 watts. No CW required. All Guatemalan hams have the no CW requirement.

Surprise!!! I get to pick my own call TG9JT my initials.

It took two months to get my 100 contacts. Everyone on 40 and 80 was Spanish speaking, except for an occasional missionary and a English speaking radio club member that was trying to help me out.

Then one Saturday at about 2 am., I discovered that all of southern United States could be heard on 40 meters. Within two weeks I had over 100 contacts. I discovered everyone wants to talk to Guatemala and will stand in line to do so. This is something we never get as an individual up here. My last contacts made from Guatemala were in June of 1965.

I saved all my logs and some Guatemalan Club news letters. I have my now expired Guatemalan license and pictures of the shack. What fond memories. One final note: To this day, I have not accumulated as many contacts as I made while was TG9JT.

Every ham, at least once in his life should have the pleasure of being a DX station and the cause of a major pile-up.

Jim - TG9JT - WB6SQR — WB9LNU

EVENTS

* indicates Vec Testing

Mid-Winter HamFest *
SUN. - JAN. 27, 2002
Wheaton Race Course
Stickney, IL
T/I on 145.390-HZ

Sat. - Feb. 2, 2002
Extra Class license classes start
at AES
Milwaukee, WI

SEWFARS SwapFest
Sun. - Mar. 3, 2002
Waukesha Co. Expo Center
Waukesha, WI
T/I on 146.82 - (PL127.3)

85th Anniversary Special Event
6:00PM ON MARCH 15TH
TO 6:00PM ON MARCH 16TH

TOLEDO HAMFEST/COMPUTER FAIR
Sun. - Mar. 17, 2002
Lucas Co. Recreation Center
Maumee, OH
T/I on 147.27+ rptr

Lamars Fest *
SUN. - MAR. 24,2002
Lake County Fairgrounds
Grayslake, IL
T/I on 147.345 + .600 MHz
or 146.52 simp.

Madison Swapfest
SUN - APRIL 14,2002
Mandt Community Center
Stoughton Junior Fair Grounds
Stoughton, WI
T/I on 147.150 MHz rptr.

Superfest (4/5-4/6 2002) •
at AES

Madison Swapfest
SUN - APRIL 14,2002
Mandt Community Center
Stoughton Junior Fair Grounds
Stoughton, WI
T/I on 147.150 MHz rptr.

February

		birthdate
Roman Hudzinski	W9JPS	Feb-05
Richard Scarvaci	K9CAN	Feb-07
Gordon Fedder	W9YFW	Feb-11
Ted Stiller	WA9RDI	Feb-11
Michael Plichta	KB9OSB	Feb-15
John Leekley	WB9SMM	Feb-16
Gary Ertel	WB9AON	Feb-16
Charles Dawson	W9CUW	Feb-17
Bernard Moores	K9KLM	Feb-17
William Brossmann	W9EQP	Feb-20
Robert Hensiak	N9VTN	Feb-20
John Kopmeier Jr	N9ZJD	Feb-20
Gerald Wahlen	WA9CGE	Feb-24
James Zabel	W9KNZ	Feb-25
William Fullhart	W9WCF	Feb-27

March

Harold Newton	KB9OZN	Mar-06
David Go	KG9GL	Mar-07
Willard Lorenz	W9ZOL	Mar-10
Edward Seruga	KE9JJ	Mar-13
Fred Mikolajewski	KC9WW	Mar-13
Jack Krause	W9JK	Mar-19
Lester Hundt	KB9QZQ	Mar-26

¡¡ Happy Birthday !!

Please, use our Repeater.
Use it or lose it.
147.045 MHz + offset.

Meeting Schedule

Our Meeting schedule for the first six months of 2002 is as follows:

January31
February28
March28
Nominations April 25
Election of officers May 30
June 27

See you there!
Pancho - KA9OFA

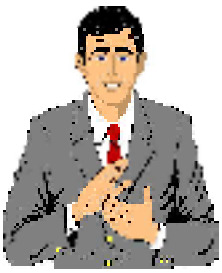
Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

WB9BWP	K9LCQ	WB9PSE
AB9CD	WB9LNU	KB9RLB
WA9CGE		KF9XL

Thanks also to Mark Tellier - AB9CD, Jerry - WA9CGE, Kristi Potochnik, for their help in the proof-reading dept. Our thanks goes to John Merkl and Norman Russell for making sure that the 'Chatter gets printed, stamped, and mailed.

Thanks also to Alfred Huwald and Myron Hendrickson for obtaining and serving refreshments at our meetings.



Thanks also goes to Tom Sherlowsky and Jacquie Horwitz for taking care of the raffle at the meetings.

Special thanks to all of our officers (past and present) who have tirelessly toiled for the good of the Club and Amateur Radio in general.

Many Thanks

M.R.A.C.

Meetings are held the last Thursday of each month except in December. The next meeting is;

Thursday - Jan. 31, 2001.

at 7:00 PM at:

Redemtion Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall

4057 N. Mayfair Rd.

(Use the south entrance)

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please! Don't call the Church for information!

Attention!!!

Dues are Due!!!

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M.R.A.C.

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